

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 18, 2001 LB 598

neglected, they have a lot of similar similarities. In some cases, the abused and neglected child, hopefully through the process we have set up, is getting a plan, a plan review by the court, and they're getting a way to appeal. And the same child with some of the same issues, who has been caught for a juvenile offense, needs those same services. And they need someone who's watching out for them. We have checks and balances all over our systems of government. And what this amendment that I'm proposing does, is provide a system of checks and balances. No longer, if you adopt my amendment, would this bill just be giving a total administrative decision without review by a court. It also takes away a valuable tool that the courts have in helping children and families resolve these issues. Probably those who are attorneys of the body, who do trial work, have advised their clients that sometimes going to trial may not be the best thing. Actually, if you can work things out ahead of time,...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...it can be a better, perhaps, solution, and for us as a state, it will save us some money if we don't have as many court hearings over these issues. But by a judge calling in all the parties, including the parents, and the child, and those people who are working with the child, the prosecutor and say, how can we resolve these issues? How can we look look at this plan that's been developed by the department? And how can we all work together to solve these problems that we're facing? And having buy-in from the parents, and from the other parties, can help make treatment work better. Handing it over to the department that's understaffed, according to some of the newspaper accounts, and other people I talk to. According to their fiscal note, that they're claiming...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Time.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...that is in this bill, they aren't even doing this. We need this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Peterson, you are next to speak.